

Message Text

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ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-06 INR-05 CIAE-00 NSAE-00

EB-03 SP-02 PM-03 DODE-00 L-01 PA-01 /042 W

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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9065

INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 11510

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: JA, US, KS, KN

SUBJECT: KOREAN AMBASSADOR ON PARK JUNE 23 INITIATIVE

1. DURING JUNE 23 CALL ON AMBASSADOR MANSFIELD, WHICH HE HAD REQUESTED PRIOR TO HIS RETURN TO SEOUL FOR CONSULTATIONS, KOREAN AMBASSADOR KIM DESCRIBED PRESIDENT PARK'S PROPOSAL FOR SOUTH-NORTH COOPERATION IN TRADE AND TECHNOLOGY, TO BE ANNOUNCED LATER IN MORNING. KIM THOUGHT PROPOSAL WAS PRAISEWORTHY ENOUGH, BUT WORRIED THAT SIDE-EFFECT MIGHT BE TO GIVE ENCOURAGEMENT TO "SOME PEOPLE, ESPECIALLY IN JAPAN AND U.S." WHO WERE INTERESTED IN ESTABLISHING RELATIONS WITH DPRK. THIS COULD POSE SERIOUS PROBLEM FOR SEOUL. HE EXPRESSED HOPE THAT AMBASSADOR, SHOULD NEED ARISE, WOULD USE HIS INFLUENCE TO DISSUADE GOJ FROM MOVING TOWARD RELATIONS WITH DPRK. KIM ADDED IN THIS CONNECTION THAT THERE SEEMED TO BE CONTINUING TENDENCY WITHIN GOJ AND BUSINESS COMMUNITY TO TREAT DPRK LENIENTLY WITH RESPECT TO ITS DEBTS. HE WAS CONCERNED THAT PARK PROPOSAL WOULD STRENGTHEN THAT SENTIMENT.

2. AMBASSADOR SAID PRESIDENT PARK'S INITIATIVE SOUNDED VERY GOOD, AND EXPRESSED HOPE IT MIGHT LEAD TO RESUMPTION
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OF SOUTH-NORTH DIALOGUE. WITH RESPECT TO KIM'S CONCERNS, HE STRESSED THAT USG POSITION TOWARD CONTACTS WITH DPRK WAS FIRM: THERE WOULD BE NONE UNLESS ROK WAS FULLY REPRESENTED. AS FOR JAPANESE POLICIES TOWARD KOREAN PENINSULA, THIS WAS STRICTLY UP TO GOJ. AMBASSADOR ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT HE SAW NO INDICATION THAT GOJ WAS CONTEMPLATING ESTABLISHING RELATIONSHIP, NOR HAD HE HEARD OF

DISPOSITION TO FORGIVE DPRK DEBTS.

3. OTHER ASPECTS OF CONVERSATION WILL BE REPORTED BY
MEMCON. MANSFIELD

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